CLAIMS

1. A computer-implemented position tracking system, comprising:

a processor; and

a computer readable medium encoded with processor readable instructions that when executed by the processor implement,

a position information receiving mechanism configured to receive at least one of compatible position information and incompatible position information from a remotely located device via a wide area network using a protocol,

a position information formatting mechanism configured to convert the incompatible position information into compatible position information, and

a position information mapping mechanism configured to present the compatible position information as location indicators on a map.

2. The system of Claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the wide area network comprises the Internet.

3. The system of Claim 1, wherein said protocol comprises at least one of a store-and-forward protocol and a direct connection protocol.

4. The system of Claim 1, wherein said protocol comprises at least one of a file transfer protocol and a simple mail transfer protocol.

5. The system of Claim 1, wherein:

said at least one of compatible position information and incompatible position information comprises historical position information corresponding to a time when said system was inactive, and

said position information mapping mechanism further comprises a historical mapping mechanism configured to present the historical information as location indicators on a map.

6. The system of Claim 1, wherein said location indicators indicate at least one of a current position of said remotely located device and a path taken by said remotely located device.

7. The system of Claim 1, wherein said processor readable instructions comprises at least one of a dynamic link library, a static link library, a script, a JAVA class, a C++ class, and a C library routine.

8. A method for mapping a position of a position reporting device, comprising the steps of:

receiving at least one of compatible position information and incompatible position information from the position reporting device via a wide area network using a protocol;

formatting the incompatible position information into compatible position information if said incompatible position information is received in said receiving step; and

mapping the compatible position information as location indicators on a displayable map.

9. The method of Claim 8, wherein at least a portion of the wide area network comprises the Internet.

10. The method of Claim 8, wherein said protocol comprises at least one of a store-and-forward protocol and a direct connection protocol.

11. The method of Claim 8, wherein said protocol comprises at least one of a file transfer protocol and a simple mail transfer protocol.

12. The method of Claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

receiving at least one of compatible historical position information and incompatible historical information from the position reporting device via a wide area network using a protocol corresponding to past position information of the position reporting device;

formatting the incompatible historical position information into compatible historical position information; and

mapping the compatible historical position information as location indicators on a displayable map.

13. The method of Claim 8, wherein said location indicators indicate at least one of a current position of said position reporting device and a path taken by said position reporting device.

14. A computer program product, comprising:

a computer storage medium; and

a computer program code mechanism embedded in the computer storage medium for causing a computer to map a position of a position reporting device, the computer program code mechanism having

a first computer code device configured to receive position information from the position reporting device via a wide area network using a protocol,

a second computer code device configured to format the position information into formatted position information compatible with a third computer code device, and

the third computer code device configured to map the formatted position information onto a displayable map.

15. The computer program product of Claim 14, wherein:

said first computer code device further comprises a fourth computer code device configured to receive historical position information via the wide area network using the protocol, said historical position information corresponding to past position information of the position reporting device, and

said second computer code device further comprises a fifth computer code device configured to format the historical position information into formatted position information.

16. The computer program product of Claim 14, wherein:

said computer program code mechanism comprises at least one of a dynamic link library, a static link library, a script, a JAVA class, a C++ class, and a C library routine.

17. The computer program product of Claim 14, wherein at least a portion of the wide are network comprises the Internet.

18. The computer program product of Claim 14, wherein said protocol comprises at least one of a store-and-forward protocol and a direct connection protocol.

19. The computer program product of Claim 14, wherein said protocol comprises at least one of a file transfer protocol and a simple mail transfer protocol.

20. The computer program product of Claim 14, wherein said computer program code mechanism being configured such that only said second computer code device need be modified to format the position information into a new format of formatted position data compatible with the third computer code device.